

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 MC-02 /069 W

----- 123507

P R 191004Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7192

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONGEN MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

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PLEASE PASS DEFENSE FOR DIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CSCE, MORG, HU, UR

SUBJ: JOINT HUNGARIAN-SOVIET EXERCISE ANNOUNCED

REF: DAO MSG IR 6 843 016476 18 OCT 76 1309Z

1. DAO CALLED IN BY FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICE (FLO) OF  
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AT 1100 OCTOBER 18 TOGETHER WITH  
WESTERN ATTACHES (INCLUDING AUSTRIAN) AND INFORMED THAT  
BETWEEN OCTOBER 18 AND OCTOBER 25 ELEMENTS OF THE  
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HUNGARIAN ARMY WOULD BE CARRYING OUT A MILITARY EXERCISE

IN WHICH CERTAIN UNITS OF SOVIET TROOPS WOULD ALSO BE PARTICIPATING. FLO SAID TOTAL NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL TAKING PART IN EXERCISE WOULD NOT RPT NOT EXCEED 15,000. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM ATTACHES IT DEVELOPED THAT: (A) WP ATTACHES HAD BEEN BRIEFED EARLIER IN DAY; (B) EXERCISE IS TAKING PLACE BETWEEN TISZA AND ANUBE RIVERS AND IN DUNATUL (AREA WEST OF DANUBE) AND; (C) AIR FORCE ELEMENTS MIGHT ALSO PARTICIPATE. NO RESPONSE WAS GIVEN TO QUESTION WHETHER COMBINED FORCES WOULD BE UNDER COMMAND OF HUNGARIAN OR SOVIET OFFICER.

2. LATER SAME DAY EMBASSY RECEIVED NOTE FROM FONOFF WHICH, QTE REFERRING TO DOCUMENT ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES AND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT OF FINAL ACT OF CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE UNQTE, INFORMED EMBASSY THAT QTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANNUAL TRAINING PLANS ASSIGNED FORMATIONS OF HUNGARIAN PEOPLES ARMY WILL CARRY OUT A MILITARY EXERCISE BETWEEN OCTOBER 18 AND 23, 1976 IN WHICH CERTAIN STAFFS AND UNITS OF SOVIET TROOPS PROVISIONALLY STATIONED IN HUNGARY WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE UNQTE. NOTE ADDED THAT TROOPS PARTICIPATING IN EXERCISE WOULD NOT EXCEED 15,000.

3. HUNGARIAN ACTION NOTEWORTHY ON SEVERAL COUNTS: (A) NO PRIOR NOTIFICATION GIVEN; EXERCISE UNDOUBTEDLY ALREADY BEGUN BY TIME ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: (B) PARTICIPATING UNITS NOT IDENTIFIED: (C) NO OBSERVERS FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES INVITED; (D) NOTIFICATION OF EXERCISE PROVIDED EVEN THOUGH FORCES PARTICIPATING ARE UNDER 25,000 THRESHOLD.

4. WE BELIEVE THIS LATTER POINT BEARS COMMENT. HUNGARIANS ARE TRYING TO WIN BROWNIE POINTS FOR THEMSELVES AND WARSAW PACT BY ANNOUNCING MANEUVERS INVOLVING LESS THAN 25,000 MEN WHILE AT SAME TIME LINKING DISCLOSURE OF EXERCISES TO QTE DOCUMENT ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES AND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT UNQTE OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT. BUT THEY ARE DOING SO WITHOUT CONFORMING TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES FOR ANNOUNCING EXERCISE OF 25,000 TROOPS OR MORE, AND THUS AS A PRACTICAL MATTER PROVIDING LITTLE OR NO USEFUL INFORMATION TO US AND OTHER PARTIES NOTIFIED.  
MUDD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY EXERCISES  
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**Draft Date:** 19 OCT 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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